

A Roman Mosaic in the South Stoa, Corinth, Greece: New Studies and Conservation Plans

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The so-called Eutychia mosaic adorns a room within the South Stoa at Corinth, Greece. It is unusual for its public context and for its centerpiece: a victorious athlete and female deity with attributes of Acrocorinthian Aphrodite and the Nymph Peirene. She is best understood as an allegory of Corinth, city of Aphrodite and Peirene, and host to the Isthmian Games. Here we presented results from recent iconographic and material analyses, previewed plans for a 2014-16 conservation campaign, and reported on progress to date. The mosaic remained in situ since its excavation in the 1932, but early conservation efforts failed to protect it from climatic and biological stresses. Recently, tesserae and substrates were analyzed by SEM, XRD, and other techniques. Photogrammetric mapping was used to document current conditions and to prepare for precise cutting and lifting. The mosaic was lifted just prior to the 2014 AIEMA conference. Conservation will include cleaning and remounting on a new support. Prior to the mosaic's reinstallation in its original place, bedding layers and underlying strata will be excavated, offering the possibility of new dating evidence, while removing bioturbation and preparing a stable sub-surface. We hope this project will be a first step toward systematic study and remediation of mosaics in situ at Corinth.

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Figures:



1. Athlete and female divinity in mosaic centerpiece.



2. Entire mosaic showing division into panels for lifting and cleaning.



3. Lifting the mosaic, October 2014.